

Message Text

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GE

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

REF: STATE 89736

1. IN CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY APRIL 21 ECONOFF INFORMED GDR OF WILLIAMS CANDIDACY FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND SOLICITED GDR SUPPORT, LEAVING A NONPAPER. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION COUNSELOR DR. PETER DIETZE SAID HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD OF WILLIAMS CANDIDACY, WHICH HE FOUND SURPRISING IN VIEW OF RECENT INFORMATION HE RECEIVED THAT NORWAY IS ALSO PROPOSING A CANDIDATE. DIETZE SAID THIS SUGGESTED WESTERN GROUP HAD NOT AGREED ON A CANDIDATE AS IS THE USUAL PRACTICE IN SUCH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS.

2. DIETZE CONTINUED THAT BANGLADESH HAS PROPOSED A CANDIDATE, AND THERE MAY BE OTHER LDC CANDIDATES PROPOSED AS WELL. ACKNOWLEDGING POINT IN EMBOFF'S

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PRESENTATION THAT U.S. FELT A DEVELOPED COUNTRY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAS APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THE PRESIDENCY IS HELD BY AN LDC REPRESENTATIVE, DIETZE SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT MANY LDC'S ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL IS OF INTEREST MAINLY TO THEM, AND BOTH OFFICES COULD PROPERLY BE HELD BY LDC REPRESENTATIVES. DIETZE SAID GDR COULD NOT

REPLY IMMEDIATELY TO U.S. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF ITS CANDIDATE, BUT WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UNDER ADVISEMENT.

3. COMMENT: ON THE BASIS OF THE WAY IN WHICH DIETZE HANDLED HIS PRESENTATION AND WHAT WE KNOW OF GDR DIPLOMACY, EMBASSY IS OF VIEW THAT GDR WILL FEEL OBLIGED TO SUPPORT BANGLADESH OR ANOTHER LDC CANDIDATE IF ONE IS PROPOSED. END COMMENT.

4. EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE ABOUT GDR VIEWS ON MEXICO CITY AGENDA, NOTING THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED ON RECENT AGENDA DEVELOPMENTS, BUT THAT THE UNITED STATES GENERALLY BELIEVED A NARROW AGENDA PREFERABLE TO A BROAD ONE (STATE 37553). DIETZE, SECONDED BY ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL PRESENT, HANS-JOACHIM LIEBCHEN, SAID THE AGENDA HAD BEEN SETTLED IN THE COURSE OF TWO OR THREE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN ROME, THE LAST OF WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE ON MARCH 31. GDR REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY, TOO, TOOK THE VIEW THAT A MORE CONCENTRATED AGENDA WOULD BE MORE CONDUCIVE TO A THOROUGH AND SERIOUS TREATMENT OF ISSUES. BUT THE AGREED MEXICO CITY AGENDA IS EVEN WIDER THAN THE SECRETARIAT'S TENTATIVE PROPOSAL, INCLUDING UNDER THE MANILA COMMUNIQUE ITEM ISSUES OF COMMODITY TRADE AND COMMODITY ASSISTANCE, AND AN ITEM RELATING TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT.

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5. DESCRIBING A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE IN CONFERENCES OF THIS SORT AS BALANCE BETWEEN INTERNAL LDC EFFORTS AND EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, DIETZE AND LIEBCHEN SAID THE GDR'S PREFERENCE IN THESE MATTERS IS FOR AN EXAMINATION OF MEANS OF STIMULATING FOOD PRODUCTION, NOT ONLY BY TECHNICAL MEANS, BUT THROUGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC MEASURES, LIKE LAND REFORM. RETURNING TO THE MEXICO CITY AGENDA/ MANILA COMMUNIQUE, DIETZ SAID THE GDR HAS SOME PROBLEMS WITH THAT DOCUMENT, WHICH UNFAIRLY CRITICIZES THE "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES FOR THEIR STANCE ON AID QUESTIONS. THE MANILA COMMUNIQUE, IN ADDITION DRAWS SELECTIVELY ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE LAST WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, FAILING TO REFLECT AGREED VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC MEASURES IN PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

6. DISCUSSING THE WORLD GRAIN RESERVE ISSUE, WHICH THE GDR REPRESENTATIVES THOUGHT WOULD ARISE IN MEXICO CITY, THEY DESCRIBED THE GDR AS "DISADVANTAGED" TO THE EXTENT THAT ITS OWN GRAIN PRODUCTION IS MODEST; AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT GREAT DIFFICULTIES REMAIN IN DEVISING A FORMULA THAT RECONCILES THE INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF A RESERVE

WITH COMPONENT PARTS UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL. BOLEN

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